

**IV. CHECKS****A. Check Format**

Contractors shall use the following statements and formats:

1. The words, "TRICARE Payment," shall be printed at the top of the check and printed in at least 18 point font size.
2. The name and address of the contractor. Logos are permitted.
3. An endorsement on the back of the check. The following statement can be printed in its entirety in the 1.5 inches allotted on the reverse side of the check for endorsement if either 4 or 5 point type is used. This will comply with Federal Reserve Bank Regulation CC regarding check endorsements. The endorsement shall read as follows:  
  
4. "This payment is made with Federal funds. Fraud in procuring, forging of signature or endorsement, or materially altering this check is punishable under the U.S. Criminal Code. IF PAYABLE TO A PARTICIPATING PROVIDER OF SERVICES - By endorsing this check, the undersigned payee agrees that he/she is subject to the terms of the participating agreement (assignment) as set forth in the TRICARE regulation."
5. A notice that the check must be negotiated within 120 days.

**B. Approval and Release of Payments**

Contractors shall not release payments for TRICARE benefits until approved by TMA. Benefit payments shall be released no later than two (2) workdays following TMA's approval of the transmitted report of the payment run.

